[*English*]

Air Fare Concession to Tourists by Indian Airlines

2929. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines grants air fare concession to tourists visiting certain tourist centres in the country;

(b) if so, the names of these places and the percentage of tourist concession made available therefor;

(c) the details of requests received to grant air fare concession to tourists which are still pending with the Government; and

(d) the time by which decision is likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Indian Airlines does not grant concession in fare to tourists for any specific tourist centre although certain special fares are available to tourists visiting India.

(c) No such proposal is pending with the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Air Link for Ajmer

2930. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to provide air link for Ajmer in view of its international importance and to boost tourism;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Because of the losses being sustained by it, Vayudoot is not in a position to provide any new air link at this stage. Moreover, the National Airports Authority is also facing acute shortage of resources. Therefore, there is no possibility of an airport being constructed at Ajmer at the present juncture.

Facilities to Tourists at Ajmer and Pushkar

2931. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the foreign tourists visiting India are eager to visit Ajmer and Pushkar in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details of facilities being provided/proposed to be provided to the tourists at these places?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Many of the foreign tourists having religious and cultural interest evince a desire to visit Ajmer and Pushkar. Development of tourist facilities is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Government extends financial assistance based on specific proposals of State Governments, their merit, inter-se priority and availability of funds. The

following projects have been sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism.

(a) Tourist complex at Pushkar

(b) Improvement of ghats at Pushkar

(c) 10 deluxe huts at Pushkar.

[*English*]

Railway Facilities at Nasik for Kumbhamela

2932. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide necessary passenger facilities at Nasik to the pilgrims during the ensuing 'Kumbhamela' there;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to provide railway terminal at Nasik with necessary passenger amenities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) At the time of Kumbhamela necessary additional facilities e.g. water taps, bathrooms, latrines, urinals second class booking office with waiting hall are proposed to be provided at Nasik for the convenience of pilgrims.

[*Translation*]

Catering System at Kalyan Station

2933. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the catering system at Kalyan station in Maharashtra is not satisfactory; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to improve it and to provide eatables at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Improvement in catering services is an on-going continuous process. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include use of standard raw materials, use of modern kitchen appliances, training to catering staff, frequent inspections, etc. Taking into account the input costs, the rates fixed for all eatables are considered reasonable.

Provision of Electricity and Water at Stations under Faizabad and Varanasi Divisions

2934. SHRI RAM BADAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no adequate provision of electricity and water on the railway stations of Faizabad and Varanasi divisions and the stations on Faizabad and Varanasi section in particular; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Out of 29 Railway stations on Faizabad-Varanasi section, 22 are already electrified. These have been provided with light fittings as per the norms prescribed. Electrification of 4 more railway stations is in progress. Rest of the stations do not fulfil the norms prescribed for electrification of railway stations.